

WISCONSIN WORKS (W-2) CONTRACT AND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

201 E. Washington Avenue, GEF 1, Room D203
Madison, WI

Friday, October 19, 2001

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

MINUTES

The W-2 Contract and Implementation Committee is the single point of contact for feedback to the Department of Workforce Development on policy implementation related to W-2 agencies, and includes representation from the Wisconsin County Human Service Association (WCHSA), Urban Caucus counties, W-2 private agencies in Milwaukee County and the balance of state, and Tribal W-2 agencies.

COMMITTEE:

Members (Present = X)

X	Eric Baker	DWS/AO
	William B. Adams	Racine County
	Jon Angeli	Southwest Consortium
X	Phyllis A. Bermingham	Marathon County
	Doris Green	OIC
	Tina Koehn	UMOS
X	Teresa Pierce	Workforce Connections, Inc
	Laverne Plucinski	Bad River Chippewa
	Jewel Reichert	Fond du Lac County
	Adelene Robinson	Kenosha County
	Shirley Ross	La Crosse County
X	Liz Green	Dane County
X	Jerry Stepaniak	MAXIMUS
	Julia Taylor	YW Works
	Glynis Underwood	ESI
X	Michael Van Dyke	Door County

Alternates (Present = X)

	Jan Alft	Marathon County
X	Linda Brandenburg	ESI
	Marcia Christiansen	Forward Services Corp.
X	Cheryl Cobb	UMOS
X	Mona Garland	OIC
X	Deb Hughes	Southwest Consortium
X	Edward Kamin III	Kenosha County
	Richard L. Kammerud	Polk County
X	James Krivsky	Racine County
	Barbara Metoxen	Oneida Nation
	Tom Miller	La Crosse County
	Rita Renner	YW Works
	Chris Schmitz	Fond du Lac County

State Staff

Mary Rowin, DWS/AO

Attendees:

Dianne Reynolds, DWS/BWP (Phone)
Jude Morse, DWS/BPS (Phone)
Rose Lynch, DWD/ASD
Pat McDonnell, DWS/AO (Phone)
Jim Jones, DHFS/DHCF/BHCE
Jayne Wanless, DWS/BWP (Phone)
Nancy Buckwalter, DWS/BPS (Phone)
Lee Mutchler, DWD/ASD

Cori McFarlane, DWS/BPS/Green Bay RO

Ginevra Ewers, DWS/BDS (Phone)
Paul Saeman, DWS/BWI
Eric Grosso, DWS/BWI
Susan Wood, DHFS/DHCF/BHCE
Geri Mayhew, DWS/BPS (Phone)
Gary Denis, DWS/BWP (Phone)
Tim Hineline, DWS/BWP (Phone)

Guests:

Bruce Wantuch, ESI
Neil Naftzger, YW Works
Liz Maherer, Sheboygan Co.
Joanne Ator, Door Co.
Val Bauldry, Door Co.
Jill Erickson, Milwaukee Co.

John Wilberding, MAXIMUS (Phone)
Marilyn Putz, Kaiser/Walworth Co.
Connie Hendries, Manitowoc Co.
Judi Dexheimer, Door Co.
Dick Buschmann, Milwaukee Co.

Recorder:

Stephen Dow, DWD/DWS/BWP

Welcome

Eric Baker welcomed everyone to the meeting and Mr. Van Dyke welcomed everyone to Door County. Mr. Baker invited everyone to introduce themselves; many attendees participated by conference phone.

Minutes Approval

Revision was requested to show Doris Greene was not at the September meeting. With that correction, motion to accept the minutes was made by Mr. Krivsky with second by Ms. Birmingham. Motion carried.

Issue/Discussion: CARES Strategic Planning Update (Pat McDonnell & Susan Wood)

Copies of the "CARES Strategic Planning Update" were provided and discussed. Pat McDonnell and Susan Wood requested members and all interested parties review this update and pass on suggestions and/or comments to them directly. A follow-up to this discussion will be added to the next month's agenda.

Issue/Discussion: Report on the Wisconsin Economy (Eric Grosso)

Eric Grosso, a DWD labor economist, presented information on the current and projected Wisconsin labor market. A simple summary is that Wisconsin's population growth is too slow to meet its employment requirements and its aging population will continue to exaggerate that problem.

Mr. Grosso's presentation will be added to the Committee's web site for this month's background papers.

Issue/Discussion: Report on the Effects of the Economy on Caseload Numbers (Paul Saeman)

Mr. Saeman presented information, using Power Point, describing data recently compiled about the W-2 caseload.

- Data about "leavers" shows that generally participants are not prematurely moving out of W-2; leavers are at least as well prepared for employment as they were in 1997.
- Further research on participants is planned for Rock and Manitowoc Counties to better identify and understand the caseload dynamics.
- Some new participants are staying in W-2 longer than previously was the case and there is little indication why this is the case.
- Both Counties have experienced large caseload increases making them good research areas.

Mr. Krivsky asked if, because CMC placements are time-limited, we are really serving more than the data shows? Mr. Saeman responded that the data is only a point-in-time, so it is not a reference to total numbers. However, the issue seems well worth looking at and perhaps a "served-to-date" can be determined.

Mr. Kamin felt the data shows many of the low skilled jobs are at the \$7.00/hour level; this appears to demand greater integration of WIA, WtW, etc. Ms. Green noted that a recent study in Dane County showed decent housing required an income of at least \$13.00/hour and asked for data that would relate W-2 and homelessness.

Mr. Buschmann asked if this information included the utilization of EITC; Mr. Saeman answered it did not.

Ms. Birmingham thanked Paul for this presentation and noted that demographic data was very important to the local agencies in planning its staffing and workload. Mr. Stepaniak agreed, asking that Milwaukee agencies' needs not be forgotten; with the number of new cases, data on where the cases are coming from and other characteristics become of greater importance.

Mr. Wilberding reported that the Milwaukee retail and service sector hirings were currently very flat, though the health care sector seems to continue strong. Mr. Grosso confirmed that this seems to be true statewide; in August and September, only 3000 new jobs were created in Wisconsin.

Mr. Van Dyke encouraged going beyond labor market information-type data; needed also is census data (i.e., the impact of the aging population on nursing and nursing home staff).

Mr. Baker noted DWD and DHFS need this data to better understand these dynamics, target our resources better, and better coordinate our efforts as well as assist the legislature in doing the same.

Mr. Kamin asked if there were any longitudinal data of what services a W-2 participant received and its impact. Mr. Saeman reported that some work has begun to report such data to the Legislature; additions to the data warehouse are being planned to do this. Ms. Rowin added that some such longitudinal data has been collected on various pieces of the program, but not directly on the issue with which Mr. Kamin was concerned. Mr. Kamin suggested such data would assist in better targeting and marketing our efforts.

Issue/Discussion: Report on the Customer Satisfaction Survey Workgroup (Eric Baker & Paul Saeman)

Ms. Cobb expressed her appreciation for the work of this group and DWD's continued interest in the group's input and agency concerns.

Mr. Saeman provided a handout on the current timetable and plans. The query in the survey re: "comfortable" has been removed.

Mr. Kamin mentioned there is confusion between gradation of "agree" and "disagree" and suggested making all the responses degrees of positive (along lines of "agree some", "agree", "agree strongly"). Mr. Saeman referred to question #8 as an example and reported the draft is using standard practice.

Mr. Kamin also asked if there would be any "marketing" of the survey. Mr. Baker and Mr. Saeman agreed this would be done, probably by a handout that explains the survey and its purpose. Mr. Kamin agreed this would be a good way to go.

Ms. Putz noted that "case manager" remains confusing in completing the survey. If the participant has both a Financial & Employment Planner (FEP) and Economic Support Specialist (ESS), s/he will likely respond about the last of those staff with whom s/he had contact; thus the report may not respond to the W-2 experience at all. Mr. Saeman asked if "W-2 staff" would work better. The response was that some Job Center structures don't make a single program very visible so even that may not be perfect. Further work will be done.

Mr. Kamin suggested some up front questions to determine if the individual being surveyed was a valid participant for the survey. Mr. Saeman agreed to look into this.

Several members voiced their appreciation for the improvements already made in the survey instrument and plan and made clear a willingness to continue in the work.

Issue/Discussion: Contract Update (Jude Morse)

The contracts have been sent out except those involving appealed areas. The signed contracts are to be returned by November 1, 2001; there will be no extensions as the timeframe is too tight to permit alternative action should an agency choose not to sign.

DWD continues to work on Budget Bill program and policy changes; Budget Bill financial changes are already reflected in the new contracts.

A conference call took place between DWD staff and agencies about the new contract on October 3. Questions and answers from that call are being compiled along with subsequent Q&A and will be put on the DWD contract web site. Contact Ms. Morse directly if you have further questions.

Issue/Discussion: Update on Milwaukee W-2 Advisory Panel (Mary Rowin)

DWD is preparing its report on the W-2 Advisory Panel now and will continue to share information with interested parties, including the balance-of-state agencies. DWD plans to form follow-up workgroups for implementation of items resulting from the Panel; Ms. Rowin briefly described the workgroups already tentatively agreed upon.

Issue/Discussion: Revitalization of the C&I Committee (Eric Baker)

Mr. Baker shared thoughts on how the Committee can become a more effective group.

W-2 and its related programs (WAA, WtW, etc.) are maturing and require flexibility in their planning, organization, coordination and delivery; C&I, given its experience and statewide view, needs to take on a greater part in those efforts. DWD needs the Committee to more actively share its expertise as an "advisory" resource; DWS doesn't want to preclude the Committee's work on short term issues, but needs to have it focus more on the broader, long-term issues.

One method is the development of subcommittees of, usually, no more than 3 participants on special issues. The core 3 members could add, as they saw fit, members from Income Maintenance Advisory Committee (IMAC), Wisconsin Social Services Association (WSSA), or other groups with interest in the subject. No groups have yet been identified, although this process has been used in the past and members found it useful.

Mr. Baker also wishes to get more regional office participation on some of the issues C&I has been dealing with, to allow C&I to get involved in policy and "big picture" items.

There was general agreement with this "vision". Mr. Baker asked members to think about this and other suggestions they have for the Committee's future; plan for further discussions in this vein during our November and December meetings.

Issue/Discussion: OTHER –

TANF State Plan Revisions

Mr. Baker announced DWD plans for the public hearing on the revised TANF State Plan. The hearing will occur in the GEF I building, room D203, on November 6, 2001.

Federal Testimony

Mona Garland and a former W-2 participant testified in Washington, DC, at a Congressional hearing on TANF reauthorization. Mona provided a brief review of the experience, reporting the hearing focused on successes of the program's participants. The Wisconsin participant reported the experience "changed her life". The hearing was for local agency and participant input, not state agencies.

State Building Security

Added security measures are being put into place in GEF I. These changes will probably require attendees to our meeting who do not work in GEF I to enter at the East Washington Avenue entry, probably through a receptionist who will provide visitor passes. We will provide further information as it is known before our next meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE: **November 16, 2001**
 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 201 East Washington Ave.
 GEF 1, Room D203
 Madison